

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical pickup apparatus has a diffractive optical element and an objective lens that focuses light beams of different wavelengths, namely a first wavelength λ_1 , a second wavelength λ_2 , and a third wavelength λ_3 , on an information recording surface formed on different types of recording medium, namely a first recording medium, a second recording medium, and a third recording medium, respectively. The diffractive optical element has a first diffractive surface that does not diffract the light beams of the first and third wavelengths λ_1 and λ_3 but that diffracts the light beam of the second wavelength λ_2 and a second diffractive surface that does not diffract the light beams of the first and second wavelengths λ_1 and λ_2 but that diffracts the light beam of the third wavelength λ_3 .